urther question is whether there has been any investigation in the matter.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—But we do not see anything regarding such an investigation in our files.

President.—The records do not show that any investigation has been conducted.

A statement showing the annual grant, expenditure, etc., of the Village Panchayats.

355. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing for the last five years.—

(i) the annual grant from the Government to each Village Panchayat;

(ii) the annual expenditure of each Village Panchayat;

(iii) the number of decrees given by Panchayat Courts, number taken in revision, number confirmed in revision, number reversed, number modified and number remanded?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Two statements giving the information available on the subjects are appended. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know on what principle this distribution of grants is based? A table is given with regard to distribution of grants for the Village Panchayats, etc.

President.—Is there any principle?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That question is answered in question No. 357.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—From this schedule I see so many grants lapsing. Are there any particular reasons for these grants to lapse?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sometimes proposals are received late. So works could not be executed early enough.

President.—But at the same time new works are started for which funds are required. And out of the funds actually provided for, you take necessary funds for new works. Is it not?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Have any explanations been called for or received?

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Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes. We are taking steps in time, but even then it so happens that they find it impossible to get through the works in time.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In the case of grants lapsed in 1100, have explanations been received in all cases ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Are Panchayats allowed to incur greater expenditure than the amount granted to them ? I see here so many items. In one case, Rs. 1,870 is the grant and Rs. 3,619 the expenditure, in Vadakkancheri, as published in the statement on page 14. There are several cases like that.

President.—In Vadakkancheri, as against a grant of Rs. 1,870, Rs. 3,619 was spent.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is fully explained in the answer to question No. 357. This is a case to which that explanation will apply. If any urgent works are to be done, the Panchayats send the proposals, and amounts are transferred to urgent works.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Do the lapse of these grants show that the Panchayatdars were not active and vigilant, or does it show that there is no need for these Panchayatdars ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Explanations have been received in certain cases.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—As far as explanations have been received, what are we to understand from them?

President —Where explanations have been submitted, were they found to be satisfactory?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—In respect of the lapses, I must say that in a good many cases the Panchayats tried to get through the works in time.

President.—Do you issue proceedings regarding lapses, so that explanations are called for and explanations submitted?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I draw their attention in time to the several items of work that they have to get through.

President.—Do you make it a point of utilizing the allotment for the year as far as possible during the year itself?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Are there any cases in which these lapses have taken place, because there is no need for spending the amount in the Panchayats? Perhaps, after the budget was submitted, they might have found that there is no necessity for

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the amount. Is there any case of that sort? It may be unnecessary budgetting.

President.—Is there any case in respect of this grant where work has been budgetted for but subsequently found to be not necessary at all, and that grant amount lapsed? That will show inattention.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I want notice.

Reasons for not giving Civil Powers to all the Panchayats.

356. Mr. I. E. Ambookan.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any reasons for not giving civil power to all the Panchayats in the State? If so, what are they?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The member is referred to para 116 of the *Report of the Administration of the Department of Agriculture and Panchayats for the year 1099*, a copy of which is placed on the Council Secretary's table for reference. As most of the Panchayats have been re-constituted under the amending Regulation III of 1097, the matter has now been taken up for consideration by the Government.

Expenditure, etc., of the Village Panchayats.

357. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the system on which the budget expenditure of the Panchayat is apportioned;

(b) if it is based on population, area or proximity to the town;

(c) the number of resolutions, if any, passed by the Panchayats but disregarded or overruled by the Superintendent of Panchayats during the last year?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) and (b). Expenditure is provided for in the Panchayat budget according to the actual requirements of each village, and is generally apportioned accordingly.

But in cases where unforeseen expenditure is urgently required for a village and no funds are available, the funds provided for less urgent works are diverted for meeting the same.

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